

This is comment on proceeding number 08-63, commonly referred to as the “Recon Robotics” case.

I applaud Recon Robotics for its ingenuity and engineering and for developing a potentially useful tool for Public Safety and Homeland Security use. While a lot of what they have submitted in their filings is just factually wrong (like the 100Hz bandwidth), and the devices themselves look better to someone who has never been on the scene of a clandestine investigation, the idea is good. I think we should give all the tools we can to those ensuring our safety and security,

However the basic fact that they have decided to operate this in a highly used portion of an Amateur Radio UHF band is just a gross and fatal engineering decision. Even though their power levels are greater than they claim and their bandwidth is grossly more than they have stated, I don't see this as a big threat to Amateur Radio use in these frequencies. But they should have known better than to operate there. I do not know if that was just because the parts were cheap or widely available or what their thinking was. But whatever they were thinking it was wrong.

All that is required to totally eliminate the usefulness of their device is an Amateur Radio operator driving nearby and talking on a simplex frequency they were using. From 5 watts to 50 watts it would just overload their system and render it useless, perhaps at a life critical moment. And the Amateur Radio operator would have no way of knowing it was even happening. Basic common sense says you do not operate this type of equipment where it is likely to be interfered with. There are other parts of the spectrum they can and should be using. Certainly if I were buying this type of device I would want to know that it would work reliably and coordinating repeater frequencies is not the way to do that.

And if I were a “bad guy” and thought the authorities might be trying to catch me, it would not be too hard to wipe out their system. They need to go back to the drawing table and come up with something more reliable. Operating something like this in a widely used Amateur Band is not a solution it is a problem for them.

Respectfully submitted,

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